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Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 AID-20 IO-14 DPW-01 SAJ-01

OMB-01 ACDA-19 IGA-02 DRC-01 /171 W
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O R 091052Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7223
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL UDORN
USLO PEKING
USMISSION USUN
SECDEF
DIA
USIA WASHDC
CINCPAC
CINCUSARPAC
CINCPACAF
CDR USSAG NKP
CDR 13 AF ADVON UDORN
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USDAO SAIGON
COMUSMACTHAI

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DODSPE REP BANKGOK
DODSPECREP NKP
354 TFW KORAT
CHSPECACTS BANGKOK
CDR JCRC NKP
7ACCS KORAT
432 TFW UDORN

RWEHCWTD TFW UBON
56 SOW NKP
388 TFW KORAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENTIANE 0185

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD; 13 AF ADVON, 432 TFW, 56 SOW,
388 TFW, 354 TFW AND 8 TFW FOR DO/DI; MACTHAI FOR J-2
AND PAO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PGOV, PFOR, PINT, ECON, LA
SUBJECT: LAO WEEKLY SITREP - JANUARY 9, 1974

REF: VIENTIANE 0016

BEGIN SUMMARY: RLG AND LPF JCCIA DELS JANUARY 3 PRESENTED ADN DISCUSSED DRAFT PROPOSALS CONCERNING JOINT POLICE FORCE RESPONSIBLITIES IN THE NEUTRALIZATION OF LUANG PRABANG AND VIENTIANE. REPORTEDLY, RLG REPS INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO SEEK INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRIME MINISTER BEFORE FURTHER DISCUSSION AT THE JANUARY 10 JCCIA MEETING. ON JANUARY 3, SOUVANNA SENT A NEW MESSAGE TO SOUPHANOUVONG, CALLING FOR SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS, REQUESTING THAT LPF SUBMIT ITS LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT, URGING HIM TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF JNPC FORMATION, AND INSISTING THAT LPF SEND PLENIPOTENTIARY REP TO VIENTIANE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ONLY SEVEN MINOR INCIDENTS REPORTED DURING THE WEEK, AND, SIMILARLY, THE ECONOMIC SITUATION REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET.
END SUMMARY
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IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENT
A. JOINT CENTRAL COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENTS
FULL RLG AND LPF DELEGATIONS, HEADED BY CHAIRMEN, HELD A THREE-HOUR PLENARY SESSION JANUARY 3. AT OUTSET, THE DELEGATIONS ENGAGED IN BRIEF CONTRETEMPS WHEN LPF PROTESTED ALLEGED RLG CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS IN AREA OF XIENG NGEUN, SOME 15 MILES SOUTH OF LUANG PRABANG. NO DECISION WAS MADE ON RESOLUTION OF THE ONUS FOR THE INCIDENT IN QUESTION.

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SUBSEQUENTLY, BOTH SIDES PRESENTED DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR JOINT POLICE FORCE (JPF) RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE NEUTRALIZATION OF LUANG PRABANG AND VIENTIANE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 10 OF THE PROTOCOL. AFTER THE MEETING, THE RLG DELEGATION SPOKESMAN STATED THAT GENERAL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE NEED FOR JPF CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS AND OFFICE SPACE FOR EACH CONTINGENT, *OR CHECKPOINTS IN THE TWO CAPITALS, AND FOR JPF PLACEMENT AND ARMAMENT. HE SAID MEETING ALSO DISCUSSED GIVING JPF JURISDICTION OVER GENERAL SECURITY TRAFFIC CONTROL, PROTECTION OF MINISTERS, SPECIAL RIOT CONTROL SQUADS, AIRPORT AND RIVER IMMIGRATION SURVEILLANCE AND FIRE INSPECTION.

LPF SPOKESMAN DISAGREED, SAYING THAT RLG DELEGATION HAD OBJECTED TO BROAD RANGE OF JPF ACTIVITIES OUTLINED ABOVE, WHICH ARE APPARENTLY DRAWN FROM LPF DRAFT PROPOSAL. HE SAID THAT RLG REPS HAD INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA. HE SPECULATED THAT, IF PRIME MINISTER APPROVES JPF JURISDICTION INDICATED ABOVE, THEN THE DELEGATIONS COULD SIGN A DOCUMENT ON THE SUBJECT OF "RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF THE JPF" AT THE JANUARY 10 JCCIA MEETING.

COMMENT: WHILE RLG DELEGATION REACTED INNOCUOUSLY TO CONCEPT OF BROAD JURISDICTION FOR JPF, CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS IN VIENTIANE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ATTEMPT TO WATER DOWN SUCH A JURISDICTION THROUGH POLITICAL MANEUVERING THIS WEEK. WE ARE THUS NOT SANGUINE THAT DOCUMENT IN QUESTION WILL BE SIGNED JANUARY 10.

B. RLG ACTIVITIES

ON JANUARY 3, PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA SENT A NEW MESSAGE TO SOUPHANOUVONG IN REPLY TO THE LATTER'S

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DECEMBER 21 COMMUNICATION. SOUVANNA CALLED FOR SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE LPF AND RLG, UNBLEMISHED BY UNNECESSARY PROPAGANDA EXCHANGES. HE CALOED ON THE LPF TO SUBMIT ITS LIST OF CANDIDATES IN THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT, DESCRIBING THIS MOVE AS A "STEP FORWARD" RATHER THAN "LEGAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENTS" IN A FORMAL SENSE. HE ALSO URGED SOUPHANOUVONG TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF THE FORMATION OF THE JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL AND "INSISTED" THAT HE SEND A PLENIPOTENTIARY REPRESENTATIVE TO VIENTIANE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. INTERIOR MINISTER PHENG TOLD EMBOFF JANUARY 6 THAT, BECAUSE OF THE PRESSURE WHICH HE AND THE PRIME MINISTER ARE PLACING ON THE LPF, HE EXPECTS LPF PLENIPOTENTIARY PHOUMI VONGVICHIT TO RETURN TO VIENTIANE IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. THERE IS NO OTHER INDICATION THAT THIS WILL BE THE CASE.

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 OMB-01 AID-20 IO-14 DPW-01

SAJ-01 ACDA-19 IGA-02 DRC-01 EB-11 ARA-16 TRSE-00

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O R 091052Z JAN 74
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7224
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
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AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL UDORN
USLO PEKING
USMISSI N USUN
SECDEF
DIA
USIA WASHDC
CINCPAC
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CDR USSAG NKP
CDR 13 AF ADVON UDORN
USDAO SAIGON
COMUSMACTHAI
DODSPE REP BANKGOK
DODSPECREP NKP
354 TFW KORAT
CHSPECACTS BANGKOK
CDR JCRC NKP
7ACCS KORAT
432 TFW UDORN
8 TFW UBON
56 SOW NKP
388 TFW KORAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENTIANE 0185

C. LPF ACTIVITIES

LPF MEDIA HAS DEVOTED A GOOD DEAL OF TIME TRUMPETING THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT JANUARY 6, 1956. AS USUAL, RADIO PATHET LAO CO7N-TINUES TO PROTEST THE RLG'S "BAD FAITH" AT THE BARGAINING TABLE AND ALLEGED HARASSMENT OF LPF POSITIONS IN LUANG PRABANG.

LPF CADRE IN LUANG PRABANG AND VIENTIANE CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A RELATIVELY LOW PROFILE IN THE COMMUNITY. IN VIENTIANE, THE LPF INCREASED ITS PROPAGANDA FILM SHOWING TO LOCAL DIPLOMATS AND LAO INTELLECTUALS.

ON JANUARY 3, LPF CONTINGENT CHIEF VISONE *AIGNAVONG LEFT LUANG PRABANG FOR SAM NEUA, FOLLOWEDLATER BY DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE LPF DELEGATION IN VIENTIANE TIAO SOAK VONGSAK. VISONE HAS SINCE RETURNED TO LUANG PRABANG.

D. OTHER

RADIO PATHET LAO, JANUARY 8, REPORTED THAT A SWEDISH PEACE DELEGATION, LED BY A MEMBER OF THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENT, ARRIVED IN THE LPF ZONE JANUARY 4 AT THE IN-VITATION OF THE LPF CENTRAL COMMITTEE. A GROUP OF CUBAN ECONOMIC SPECIALISTS ENDED A 10-DAY VISIT ON THE SAME DATE.

II. SECURITY SITUATION
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SEVEN MINOR INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED DURING THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 9. FOUR OF THESE INCIDENTS TOOK PLACE BETWEEN 8-18 KMS NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE IN MR-IV;

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THREE WITHIN A 12-HOUR PERIOD. THESE ATTACKS MAY CONSTITUTE PATHET LAO EFFORT TO PUSH THE FAR AWAY FROM THE CONTESTED AREA EAST OF THE SEDONE RIVER.

THE MOST INTERESTING EVENT OF THE WEEK WAS THE ARRIVAL IN LUANG PRABANG OF 20 PATHET LAO OFFICERS AND MEN OF A PATHET LAO BATTALION WHO DEFECTED TO RLG FORCES IN THE BAN HOUEI SAI AREA (MR-I). ALL THE BATTALION OFFICERS WERE IN THE GROUP, INCLUDING THE ACTING BATTALION COMMANDER. THEY ARE NOW BEING DEBRIEFED IN LUANG PRABANG.

III. ECONOMIC SITUATION

THE USAID COL INDEX ROSE BY 3 PERCENT DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY, IN PART AS A RESULT OF AN INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF RICE, PARALLELING A SIMILAR DEVELOPENT IN THE PRICE OF THAI RICE. POL SUPPLIES ARE CONTINUING AT ABOUT THE MONTHLY AVERAGE RATE OF 1973. SOME TRANSPORTATION DIFFICULTIES HAVE AFFECTED THE SUPPLY OF GAS OIL BUT ARE BEING REMEDIED.

THE RLG HAS MADE AN INITIAL CY-74 CONTRIBUTION TO FEOF OF $500,000. A MINISTRY OF FINANCE WORKING GROUP (SEE REFTEL) HAS BEGUN ITS WORK ON THE RECENT IMF MISSION RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE FISCAL AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROJECTIONS FOR CY-74.

THE ISSUE OF NEW BANKNOTES OF KIP 500 AND 100 DENOMINATIONS AS OF JANUARY 1 HAS GIVEN RISE TO RUMORS OF A POSSIBLE DEVALUATION. TO SQUELCH THESE RUMORS, THE MINISTER OF FINANCE HAS ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE, FURTHER INDICATING THAT THE OLD BILLS WILL BE WITHDRAWN ONLY GRADUALLY.

AN ADB MISSION HAS ARRIVED FOR A TWO WEEK'S STAY TO REVIEW POTENTIAL PROJECTS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SECOND FIVE-YEAR PLAN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, COALITION GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL STABILITY, COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATIONS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974VIENTI00185
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: VIENTIANE 0016
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAO WEEKLY SITREP - JANUARY 9, 1974
TAGS: MOPS, PGOV, PFOR, PINT, ECON, LA, RLG, LPF, JCCIA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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